How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?

In support

I support the Bill first and foremost because I am a lesbian woman who wishes to marry the love of my life in the country which I love living. Secondly, I support the bill because the 'separate but equal' way in which we are living now is no different to the segregation experienced in the United States between people of Black and White Skin Colour. Inequality is not a solid or positive foundation upon which to raise our children or future generations and surely will keep us farther from our universal goal of peace.

How would you characterise your views on the introduction of same sex marriage, so that same sex couples can marry each other?

In support

Marriage’ is just a word to explain the union between two people living as a couple and representing each other in matters of life and death. Of course it is also an expression of the feelings two people have for one another. Although religion would have us focus on the definition of marriage being the union between one man and one woman, that is a very old way of seeing things. And now that Christianity is itself a minority, I think the laws should be updated to reflect the new true separation of church and state. For, how can you use religious laws to govern a people, the majority of which are non-religious? That creates a brand new imbalance and inequality all together. Therefore, the name we give the union between same-sex couples is really the least of our problems. Having said that, I believe that if two people, gay, straight or otherwise wish to be married they should have the right to do so. And on the same token, if they choose to be civil partners, they should also have that right. True equality will breed a more civilized society and give a great example for other countries and societies.

How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?

In support

Equal Equal Equal. Although I don't believe that religions should be forced to take part, I believe they should have the right to do so if they choose.

How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including the opt-in procedures)?

In support
How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

In support

If people wish for their civil partnerships to change to marriages then I think they should have that option. However people should still have the option to keep their civil partnerships if they prefer it that way.

How would you characterise your views on allowing civil marriage ceremonies to take place anywhere, other than religious premises, agreed between the couple and registrar?

Neither

I don't think religion should really have anything to do with it. Speaking from experience I can say that there were places I would have wanted to have my civil partnership ceremony but couldn't because it was 'religious premises'. I think it should come down to the venue agreeing with the ceremony and going from there.

How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

In support

How would you characterise your views on allowing transgender persons to stay married when obtaining a full Gender Recognition Certificate, which provides legal recognition in the acquired gender?

In support

Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?

I understand that some people are not comfortable with the idea of same-sex marriage and a lot of those issues are spawned from either religious views on same-sex relations or a lack of understanding. Some people think that homosexuality is a choice, which has clearly been proven to be a false. So it is important for us not to just change the laws for Equality but to also help educate those who don't understand. I do not believe that religion or ideas of religions should be taken into account when law making across the board. Not just in the matters of same-sex couples. After all, governments don't really take pagan beliefs into consideration when law making, so why should Christianity be extended a courtesy like that? It creates more inequality.

Would you like to comment on the wider issue of freedom of speech?

People should be allowed to speak their minds without fear of prosecution for their honesty. We should not be afraid to tell our governments where/when we think they are in error or how we think they could make things better for everyone. After all, we vote for our MPs and shouldn't let that be the only way in which are voices are heard.
Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Erin Beyer
18 July 2013